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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7202
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NORTH KOREA

11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Thursday morning included Wednesday's one-one-one Diet debate between Prime Minister Fukuda and DPJ President Ozawa.

12. "Don't Be Baited by North Korea" The conservative Sankei editorialized (4/10): "...Even after the U.S.-DPRK talks in Singapore, there is no clear path toward the denuclearization of North Korea.... As only nine months remain until the end of President Bush's term, his administration needs to show progress on the matter. The DPRK appears to be trying to string the U.S. along while it waits to see what happens in the ongoing presidential election.... The direction that the U.S. and Japan should take is to enhance their alliance while producing steady progress on both the nuclear and abduction issues. The Bush administration must not be taken in by Pyongyang's games. Washington should carefully check the contents of the nuclear declaration North Korea is to produce, and we would also like to see it review how delisting Pyongyang as a state sponsor of terrorism fits into the overall process of denuclearizing North Korea."

MESERVE